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Split between the Jewish Provisional Government in Palestine and the Irgun Zvai Leumi ; Repercussions in the United States.

Describes the effect which the split between the Provisional Government and the Irgun has had in the United States. Many Zionists are worried by the split because of its international as well as its internal repercussions.

Copied to United Kingdom Delegation, New York, and Jerusalem.

Last Paper

E. 9010

References

(Minutes.)

It is nice to know that not only people who suffer from Irgun's attentions.

James R. K. 6 : vii

B. 4/ 2/ 7

N.A. Dept. 15. 23/ 7
A.I. Dept. 27. vii
M.F.I. Dept. 28/ 7.

W.B. 21/ 7

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BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON

29th June, 1948.

6 JUL 1948

Ref. 3/ /48.

Dear Department,

The split between the Jewish Provisional Government and the Irgun, which was revealed by the arrival in Palestine waters of the "Altalena", has had its repercussions here.

2. The American League for a Free Palestine released from its Washington office a few days ago what it described as a top-secret intelligence report, of the authenticity of which it was fully satisfied, containing "irrefutable proof" that the Israeli leaders were making "basic concessions" injurious to the new State of Israel in secret negotiations with King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan.

3. The concessions in question, which were alleged to have been made by Mr. Ben Gurion and Mr. Shertok, were as follows:

- (a) The Provisional Government would not oppose the annexation of the Negeb by King Abdullah;
- (b) The Provisional Government would surrender Jaffa to Abdullah and in addition pay a considerable indemnity for Arab losses in the Battle of Jaffa;
- (c) The Provisional Government would create a free zone in the port of Haifa for the use of Abdullah.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

/The American

The American League's statement continued by saying that even greater demands were being made by King Abdullah and were being considered by Dr. Weizman, Mr. Ben Gurion, and Mr. Shertok. These would provide for the creation of a mixed federal regime for the whole of Palestine under King Abdullah and for the stoppage of further immigration into Palestine as of the day of the conclusion of peace. These negotiations were alleged to have taken place through the mediator.

4. Needless to say, this statement was termed "fantastic nonsense" by an official spokesman of the Jewish Provisional Government at Lake Success, who called it typical of the frauds which had long been perpetrated by the Irgun and its sympathizers in the United States. Mr. Eban (who was presumably the spokesman referred to) mentioned it again on the 27th June at a meeting of the United Jewish Appeal in New York. At this meeting both he and Henry Morgenthau Junior attacked the recent attempts of the Irgun to land arms and ammunition in Palestine and thus to shatter the authority of the Jewish Provisional Government. Mr. Eban, who mentioned the names of Ben Hecht, Louis Bromfield (the author), and Johan Smertenko, was particularly scornful of the incitement of rebellious elements in Israel by those who did not intend to leave the fleshpots to become citizens of the new Republic and whose "august feet have not trodden the soil of Israel".

5. There was a large Police guard at this meeting to prevent a recurrence of the incident which took place at the New York offices of the Jewish Provisional Government, which were invaded on the 25th June by 60 khaki-clad members of Brith Trumpeldor. These people held a memorial meeting which lasted an hour and forty minutes for the members of the Irgun who had been killed in the "Altalena" affair. The whole thing was evidently expertly managed and the general impression given by the demonstrators was clearly shown by the remark of a Jewish woman who was struck by one of them for saying "What are you? Storm Troopers?". The proceedings were, however, orderly, apart from a brief scuffle at the beginning.

/6. This split

6. This split is naturally worrying many Zionists because of its international as well as its internal repercussions. It has been taken up by a number of newspapers including the "Washington Post" and the "New York Times", both of which are very critical of the extremists. The former draws a parallel between the present situation in "Israel" and that in Ireland after the 1914-18 war, and the latter urges that, since the extremists are financed mainly from the United States, the United States Government should establish control over funds used in violation of its own international obligations under the Security Council resolution and to the disadvantage and confusion of the new Government of Israel.

7. We are sending copies of this letter to the United Kingdom Delegation in New York and to the Consulate-General in Jerusalem.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

B.